

1 Samuel 25:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

Analysis

But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

A servant's warning to Abigail initiates her intervention. The Hebrew 'vayit bahem' (railed on them/flew at them) describes Nabal's aggressive verbal attack. The servant contradicts Nabal's feigned ignorance—he knows David 'sent messengers out of the wilderness' for legitimate purpose. The phrase 'to salute' (levarekh—literally 'to bless') emphasizes the peaceful intent of David's approach. This servant's initiative reveals household awareness that Nabal's response created danger. Servants going around their master to his wife indicates desperate circumstances. The information network that failed in Saul's household (servants afraid to speak) functioned in Nabal's—at least regarding his wife.

Historical Context

Household servants often understood situations their masters ignored. Going to the wife when the husband created problems was a recognized avenue for problem-solving in ancient households. The servant's willingness to report Nabal's foolishness to Abigail suggests she was known for wisdom.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do wise servants navigate around foolish masters?
2. What does the servant's trust in Abigail reveal about her reputation?

Interlinear Text

אֶחָד מִהַנְּעָרִים הֵגִיד לְאִשְׁתּוֹ אֲבִיגַיִל יֵלֶּ

Abigail

H26

wife

H802

Nabal's

H5037

told

H5046

of the young men

H5288

But one

H259

מֵלָאָכִים יָדָא שְׁלַח הִנֵּה לֵאמֹר מִהַנְּעָרִים

of the young men

H5288

saying

H559

H2009

sent

H7971

Behold David

H1732

messengers

H4397

בָּהֶם: וַיַּעַט אֲדֹנָיִנוּ אֶת לְבָרָהּ מִהַמִּדְבָּר

out of the wilderness

H4057

to salute

H1288

H853

our master

H113

and he railed

H5860

H0